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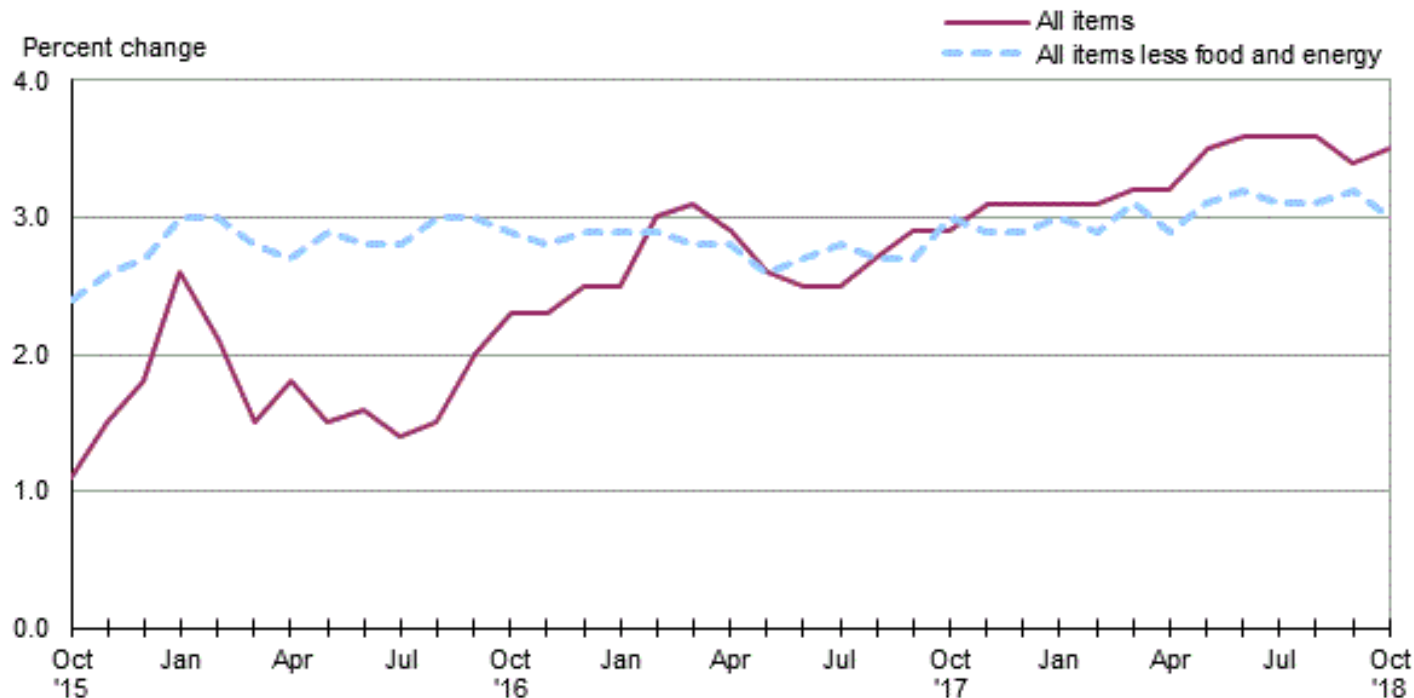
Consumer Price Index, West Region — October 2018

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 3.5 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.4 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) The October increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline, household furnishings and operations, and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 3.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices jumped 12.8 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.0 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, October 2015–October 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged up 0.2 percent for the month of October. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home advanced 0.3 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 2.0 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 0.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 1.6 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (2.7 percent). Prices for electricity rose 0.8 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 5.0 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 12.8 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (22.6 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 0.8 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 4.8 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in October. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (1.4 percent), new and used motor vehicles (0.9 percent), apparel (0.7 percent), and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.0 percent) and medical care (2.7 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-0.7 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5	3.1
February.....	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0	0.5	3.1
March.....	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1	0.4	3.2
April.....	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.2
May.....	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5
June.....	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5	0.2	3.6
July.....	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5	0.1	3.6
August.....	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.6
September.....	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9	0.3	3.4
October.....	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.5
November.....	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3	0.0	3.1		
December.....	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5	0.1	3.1		

The November 2018 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on December 12, 2018

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population.

The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2017	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	264.395	265.105	266.195	3.5	0.7	0.4
All items (December 1977=100).....	427.380	428.528	430.289			
Food and beverages	260.098	260.238	260.903	2.0	0.3	0.3
Food	259.839	259.955	260.593	2.0	0.3	0.2
Food at home	246.873	246.457	247.233	0.9	0.1	0.3
Cereals and bakery products	259.020	258.351	257.879		-0.4	-0.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	258.828	255.646	255.331		-1.4	-0.1
Dairy and related products	225.159	225.997	228.597		1.5	1.2
Fruits and vegetables	325.125	328.324	328.262		1.0	0.0
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	171.246	171.372	173.788		1.5	1.4
Other food at home	211.715	210.942	211.686		0.0	0.4
Food away from home.....	276.720	277.520	277.981	3.2	0.5	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	260.135	260.600	261.592	2.8	0.6	0.4
Housing	288.932	289.398	290.099	3.5	0.4	0.2
Shelter	332.959	333.957	334.494	4.0	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	351.431	353.140	354.472	4.8	0.9	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	349.126	350.400	351.644	4.2	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	349.141	350.417	351.657	4.2	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	306.943	301.933	301.160	1.1	-1.9	-0.3
Household energy	263.985	257.487	256.716	-0.2	-2.8	-0.3
Energy services(1)	266.349	259.548	258.541	-0.4	-2.9	-0.4
Electricity(1).....	294.006	288.745	291.133	0.8	-1.0	0.8
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	218.282	206.671	196.435	-4.8	-10.0	-5.0
Household furnishings and operations	128.378	129.206	130.992	2.6	2.0	1.4
Apparel	116.614	120.996	121.809	-0.7	4.5	0.7
Transportation	219.235	219.326	222.181	8.1	1.3	1.3
Private transportation	215.011	214.985	217.647	8.7	1.2	1.2
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.683	99.368	100.223	1.2	-0.5	0.9
New vehicles	145.903	145.885	146.648	0.5	0.5	0.5
New cars and trucks(3)(4)	101.334	101.315	101.848	0.5	0.5	0.5
New cars(4)	143.377	143.667	144.055	1.1	0.5	0.3
Used cars and trucks.....	135.579	130.452	131.485	0.3	-3.0	0.8
Motor fuel	271.188	273.994	281.378	22.5	3.8	2.7
Gasoline (all types).....	269.963	272.802	280.212	22.6	3.8	2.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	267.197	270.063	277.448	22.8	3.8	2.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	257.208	259.277	265.885	21.9	3.4	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	263.377	265.956	272.982	21.2	3.6	2.6
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	841.012	847.893	852.160		1.3	0.5
Medical Care	494.151	495.094	496.643	2.7	0.5	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	385.085	382.609	384.194	2.8	-0.2	0.4
Medical care services.....	528.357	530.461	531.989	2.7	0.7	0.3
Professional services	354.203	354.466	355.136	0.5	0.3	0.2
Recreation(3).....	114.002	113.933	114.160	0.8	0.1	0.2
Education and communication(3).....	137.172	138.175	138.038	1.2	0.6	-0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6)	1,433.387	1,457.206	1,458.510		1.8	0.1
Other goods and services	436.312	437.335	438.842	2.5	0.6	0.3
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	264.395	265.105	266.195	3.5	0.7	0.4
Commodities	185.265	185.784	187.076	3.2	1.0	0.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2017	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018
Commodities less food & beverages.....	147.891	148.525	149.986	4.0	1.4	1.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	195.806	198.314	200.593	7.2	2.4	1.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	251.316	252.441	255.761	9.9	1.8	1.3
Durables	105.123	104.306	105.083	-0.3	0.0	0.7
Services.....	337.754	338.639	339.488	3.6	0.5	0.3
Rent of shelter(2).....	354.490	355.560	356.135	4.0	0.5	0.2
Transportation services	318.229	320.048	322.968	6.1	1.5	0.9
Other services	352.039	353.861	355.272	2.8	0.9	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	253.881	254.579	255.646	3.6	0.7	0.4
All items less food	265.282	266.086	267.246	3.7	0.7	0.4
All items less shelter.....	237.558	238.155	239.469	3.2	0.8	0.6
Commodities less food	152.071	152.706	154.166	3.9	1.4	1.0
Nondurables	228.376	229.819	231.381	4.4	1.3	0.7
Nondurables less food.....	200.694	203.099	205.317	6.9	2.3	1.1
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	251.851	252.912	256.007	9.2	1.7	1.2
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	354.242	354.992	356.282	3.2	0.6	0.4
Services less medical care services.....	324.408	325.212	326.014	3.7	0.5	0.2
Energy	272.425	271.577	275.834	12.8	1.3	1.6
All items less energy	266.010	266.840	267.708	2.9	0.6	0.3
All items less food and energy	267.873	268.827	269.737	3.0	0.7	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	138.970	139.347	140.104	0.3	0.8	0.5
Energy commodities.....	275.826	278.696	286.234	22.3	3.8	2.7
Services less energy services.....	343.230	344.541	345.495	3.8	0.7	0.3

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.